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Tales from the Archives

Sporadic accounts of research and progress in Williamson-Collins genealogy

It's amazing how often a couple of little words can make all the difference. In the Rooke line we started with vague notes about marriages to men with names like "Huddy Mantle," "Lanksbury," and even the high-falootin'-sounding "Buckingham." For years, none of these names made any sense because we had no idea how they fit together. If anything, the few little facts we discovered seemed to reveal nothing more than a quaint fondness for bizarre middle names and tall tales in the sepia-toned pages of family memory.

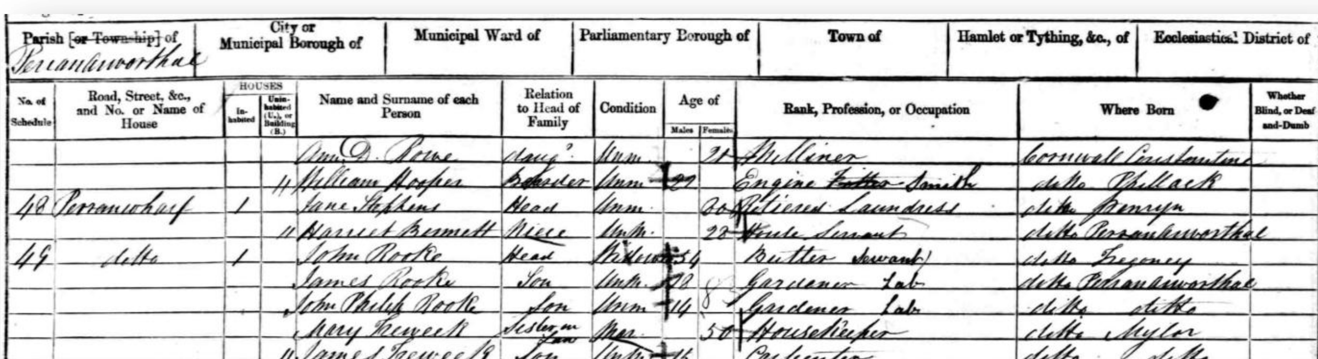
But how could we have expected to encounter characters like a professional cricket player for Middlesex with an average bat, a good arm, and bad genes, or a naval engineer serving on the flagship leading one of the last great tours of the empire by the British sailing fleet (with a cousin who confuses the heck out of genealogists from BC to Queensland, the long way 'round). Even the hotel manager from Hamilton, Ontario plays a role, tragic as it may be.

In retrospect, the original names were right all along, but in a wonderfully twisted sort of way that requires a few more words (and a name or two) to stitch the individual chapters into a richly bound story. So we'll begin the tale in the middle, with a middle-aged butler named John Rooke, who worked for a knight named Lemon at an estate called Carclew (pictured right), and had a thing for the house maid.

The house maid's name? Miss Elizabeth Bennett.

The Knight's Rooke

John Rooke, butler to Sir Charles Lemon of Carclew House, was the great-grandfather of John Clarence (Kelly) Williamson. In the census of 1861, he was a 54-year-old widower, living with two of his younger children, his sister-in-law Mary Treweek, and her son.[i] Their home was on a street or sub-division called Perranwharf in Perranarworthal, a little town and parish district along the western side of the bay at Falmouth, Cornwall.

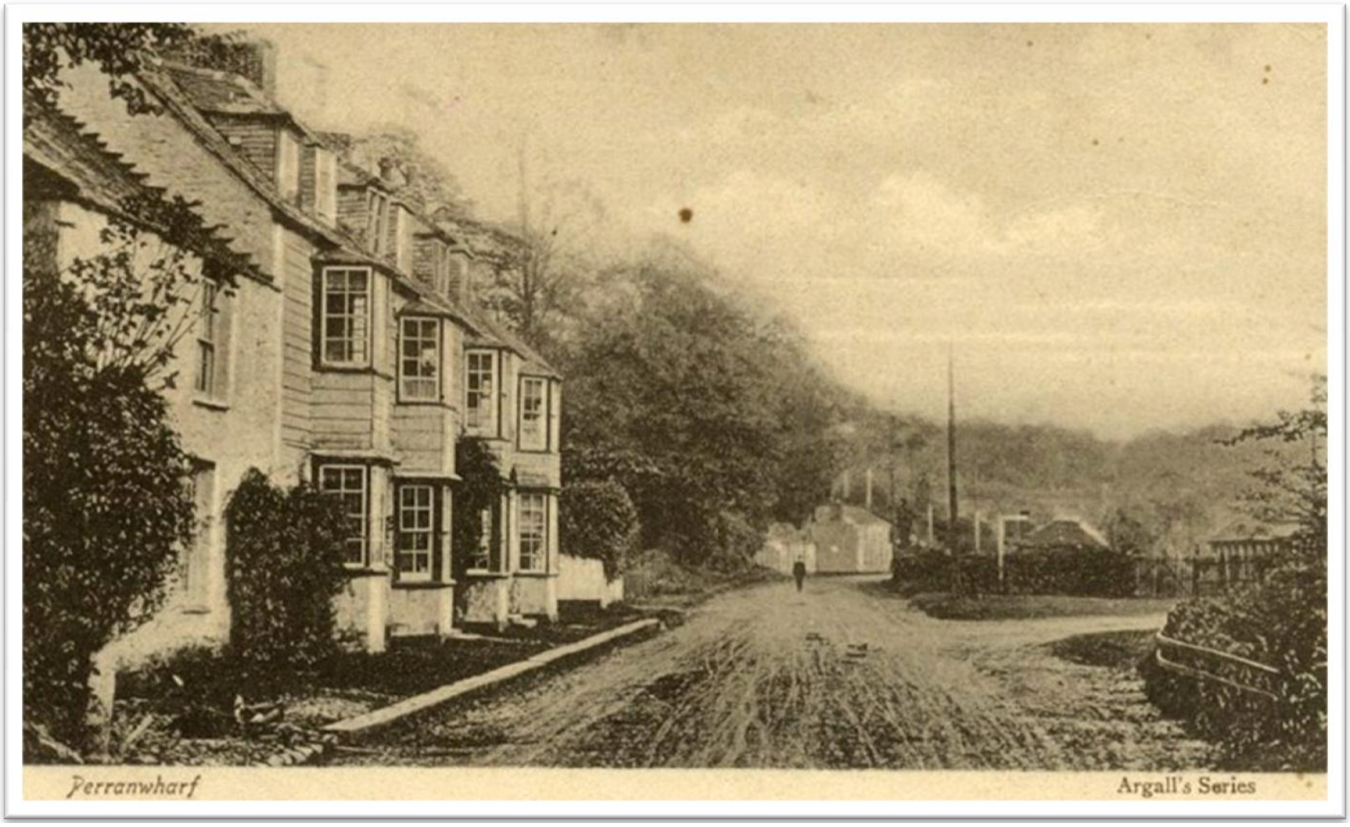


Parish ~~[or Township]~~ of Perranarworthal	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Ecclesiastical District of

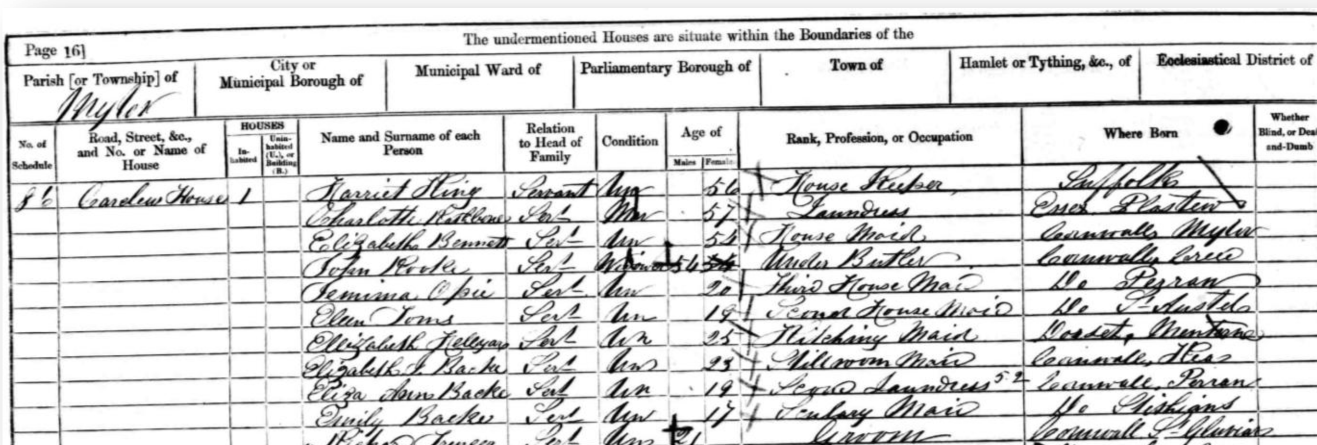
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	Houses: In-habited	Houses: Uninhabited (U.), or Building (B.)	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Males	Age of Females	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf-and-Dumb
				Ann D. Rowe	daur?	Unm		21	Milliner	Cornwall Constantine	
			//	William Hooper	Boarder	Unm	29		Engine ~~Fitter~~ Smith	ditto Phillack	
48	Perranwharf	1		Jane Stephens	Head	Unm		30	Relieved Laundress	ditto Penryn	
			//	Harriet Bennett	Niece	Unm		22	House Servant	ditto Perranarworthal	
49	ditto	1		John Rooke	Head	Widower	54		Butler (Servant)	ditto Tregoney	
				James Rooke	Son	Unm	18		Gardener Lab	ditto Perranarworthal	
				John Philip Rooke	Son	Unm	14		Gardener Lab	ditto ditto	
				Mary Treweek	Sister in Law	Mar		50	Housekeeper	ditto Mylor	
			//	James Treweek	Son	Unm	15		Carpenter	ditto ditto	

UK RG9 – 1861 Cornwall, Perranarworthal, district 6b, page 10.

This curiously appropriate picture of "Perranwharf cottages opposite the Carclew turning" is dated 1905.



Curiously appropriate because as luck would have it, John was enumerated twice in 1861; he is also listed among the staff of Carclew House about a mile away from home, right down that very turning, and right below the name of the maid who was to be his second wife.



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The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish [or Township] of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Ecclesiastical District of
Mylor						

No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES: Inhabited	HOUSES: Uninhabited (U.), or Building (B.)	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Males	Age of Females	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf-and-Dumb
86	Carclew House	1		Harriet King	Servant	Unm		56	House Keeper	Suffolk	
				Charlotte Rathbone	Sert	Mar		57	Laundress	Essex Plaistow	
				Elizabeth Bennett	Sert	Un		54	House Maid	Cornwall, Mylor	
				John Rooke	Sert	Widower	54	~~54~~	Under Butler	Cornwall, Creed	
				Jemima Opie	Sert	Un		20	Third House Maid	Do Perran	
				Ellen Toms	Sert	Un		19	Second House Maid	Do St Austell	
				Elizabeth Kellyan	Sert	Un		25	Kitchen Maid	Dorset, Minterne	
				Elizabeth J. Backe	Sert	Un		23	Stillroom Maid	Cornwall, Kea	
				Eliza Ann Backe	Sert	Un		19	Second Laundress	Cornwall, Perran	
				Emily Backe	Sert	Un		17	Scullery Maid	Do Stithians	
				Richard Treneer	Sert	Un	21		Groom	Cornwall St Gluvias	

UK RG9 – 1861 Cornwall, Mylor, district 5c, page 16.

He married Elizabeth Bennett a year later, in the spring of 1862.[ii] They retired sometime during the 1860s, possibly in 1868 when Sir Charles Lemon died without heirs and the baronetcy at Carclew became extinct (the house was inherited by a nephew, but the title died with him). John and Elizabeth spent almost 30 years together in Perranarworthal, living "on their own means" until their passing just a few years apart in the 1890s.

But when we first found John, we had only a few pieces of conflicting information, and no way to be sure this was the correct family or that our ancestor was indeed the butler at Carclew. At that time, our story ended with his son James Rooke, the patriarch of our Rooke line as far as it went. We had been searching for a record of James's birth, and between parish registers and civil registrations, we had found tentative records for James and five other children born to John and *Grace* Rooke in Perranarworthal between 1838 and 1853.[iii]

Children of John and Grace Rooke:

1. Elizabeth Huddy Rooke (1838)
2. Jane Rooke (1840)
3. **James Rooke** (1842, husband of Jemima Pinch, as told elsewhere)
4. Baby boy Rooke (1843)
5. John Philip Rooke (1847)
6. Ellen Richards Rooke (1853)

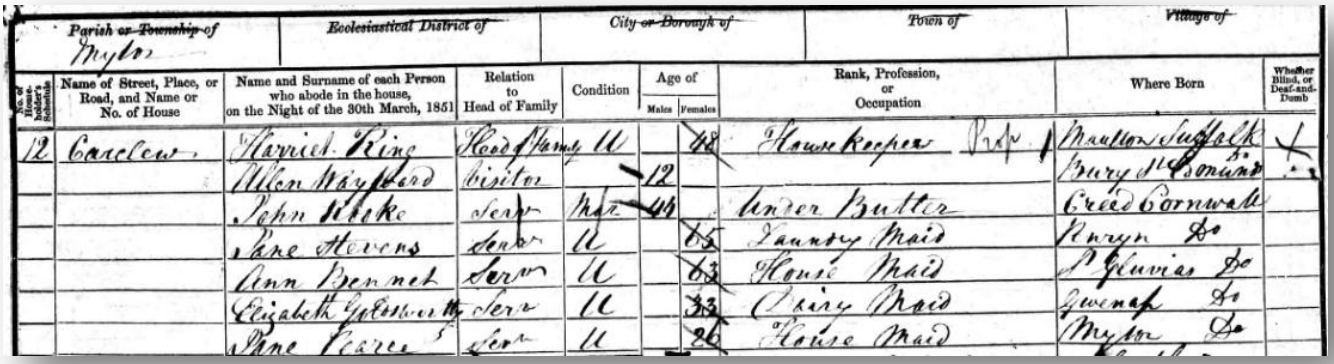
Knowing what we know about Cornish naming practices, we ought to expect names like Huddy, Philip, and Richards to figure in the tree here and there. Keep your eyes open ☺.

First things first: Who is Grace, the mother of John's kids? We knew she must have died between 1853 and the census in 1861, and sure enough, there is a death record from the second quarter of 1859 for Grace Rooke in the registration district of Falmouth (which includes Perranarworthal).[iv] Turning back the clock to 1851, our search was complicated by the fact that our usual source of census images (Ancestry.com) omitted the folio for Perranarworthal.[v] The census exists however, and we found the family in a volunteer-transcribed index.[vi]

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Sex	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
Rooke, Grace	Head	M	F	39	Servant - Wifes Husband Absent	Cornwall - Mylor
Rooke, Elizabeth	Dau	-	F	13	Scholar	Cornwall - Perranarworthal
Rooke, Jane	Dau	-	F	11	Scholar	Cornwall - Perranarworthal
Rooke, James	Son	-	M	8	Scholar	Cornwall - Perranarworthal
Rooke, John Philip	Son	-	M	3	Scholar	Cornwall - Perranarworthal

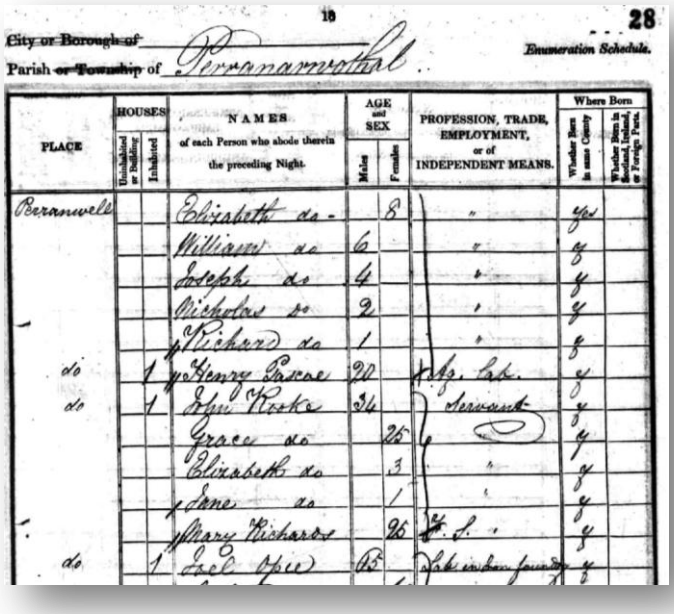
UK H0107 – 1851 Cornwall, Perranarworthal, page 16.

The family fits but for John, although his absence is explained down the turning to Carclew again.



UK H0107 – 1851 Cornwall, Mylor, district 2e, page 5.

Ten years back again to the earliest available census, and we finally found John and Grace together, in 1841.



There's an important detail in this one. Although the 1841 census does not include relationships, there is a Mary Richards living with the family. Her age is overly-curly, but it is most likely 25 (adult ages were supposed to be rounded down to the 5s, but this rule was haphazardly followed). Recall the 1861 census with Mary Treweek, sister-in-law of widower John?

Sure enough, Mary Richards married Joel Treweek on Christmas day, 1841. John Rooke was a witness.[vii] And if Mary Richards-Treweek was John Rooke's sister-in-law, then his wife could very well be Grace *Richards*. That name should sound familiar – it is the middle name of John and Grace's youngest daughter. There's nothing like a big pile of flimsy evidence when the real thing is missing. And there's more!

UK H0107 – 1841 Cornwall, Perranarworthal, district 7, page 9.

John and Grace were married just before civil registration started in England. This is unfortunate, but our friends at the Cornwall OPC (Online Parish Clerks) have transcribed a parish record of the marriage of John Rooke and Grace *Richards*, on February 19, 1837. James "Rook" and William Richards witnessed. Looking for Richards families in the area, we found Mary, Grace, and William: the oldest children of Philip Richards and Grace Rowe. Philip Richards died just before John and Grace's fourth child, John *Philip* Rooke, was born.[viii]

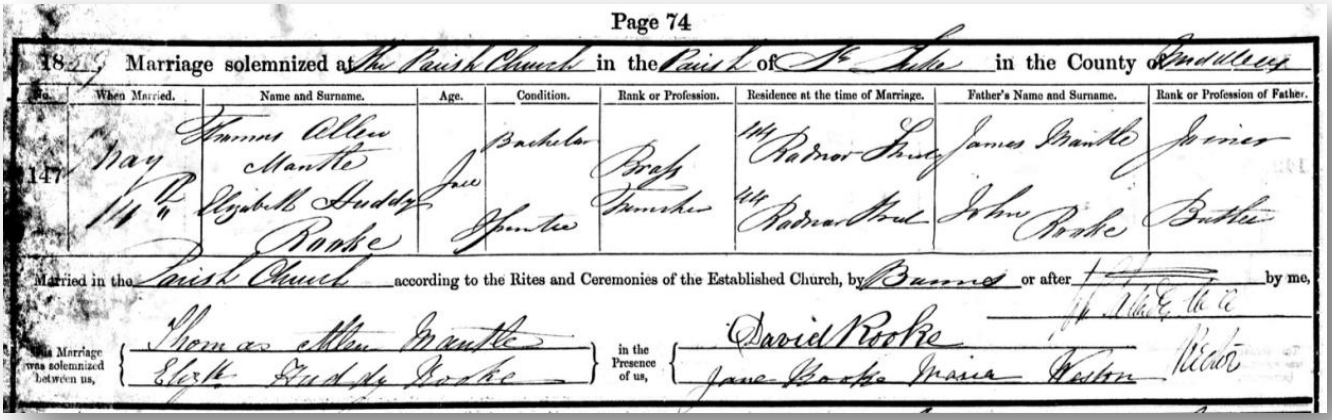
So, when Grace (Richards) Rooke died in 1859, her sister Mary moved back in to take care of the Rooke kids while John worked at Carclew. It all fits rather well. Hail Mary!

John Rooke's birthplace, more often than not, is given as Creed, Cornwall. We believe that he was christened there on April 22, 1807, one of five brothers and a sister, the children of James Rooke and Elizabeth *Huddy* (the namesakes of John's first son and first daughter respectively). John's father was a "Maltster" – a brewer of malt beverages – and the hospitality trade is prevalent among his descendants (more on that later). John's immediate family may also have been in the business. He is referred to in the *West of Briton* newspaper as "Mr. John Rooke, of the Anchor and Hope Inn." Wonderful name, that.

It really shouldn't surprise us that the names make perfect sense, again. So far however, we've only dealt with the new names we uncovered while looking for John and Grace. That still leaves our original mystery men, Mantle, Lanksbury, and Buckingham. Did you happen to notice that all of the Rooke girls were absent in the 1861 census? Yup, they were off "rooking" husbands. And fine ones at that.

The Bowler's Mantle

John Rooke's younger brother David was also a butler. In 1851, David worked for H.N. Burroughs, a member of parliament. In '61 he worked at Dale Park House (pictured here), an estate about 20 miles west of Brighton near the south coast of England which was for much of its history a summer home of various London MPs. This is interesting, because it is around this time that John Rooke's eldest daughters appear to have moved out of Cornwall into the area around London. David Rooke may have played a role in their relocation, and employment. He was certainly in contact with them, because on May 14, 1859, Elizabeth Huddy Rooke, the oldest daughter of John and Grace Rooke, married Thomas Allen Mantle in the parish church of St. Luke, London, Middlesex.



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18 Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of St Luke in the County of Middlesex

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
147	May 14	Thomas Allen Mantle	Full	Bachelor	Brass Founder	14 Radnor Street	James Mantle	Farmer
		Elizabeth Huddy Rooke	Full	Spinster		14 Radnor Street	John Rooke	Butler

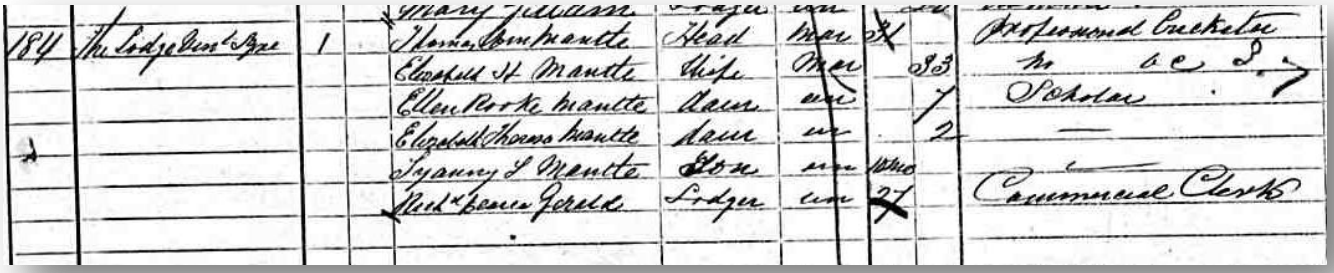
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Banns or after [illegible] by me, [illegible]

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Thomas Allen Mantle, Elizth Huddy Rooke — in the Presence of us, David Rooke, Jane Rooke, Maria Weston — [illegible] Vicar

London, England, Marriages and Banns, St. Luke Old Street register of marriages, Islington, London, page 31.

David Rooke was one of the witnesses, as was Elizabeth's sister Jane. Oh, and Maria Weston? That's David's wife's niece. These sorts of interesting connections are only possible if you know the rest of the family. We've found it extremely valuable to trace siblings and cousins beyond our immediate ancestors, because they tie the family together in ways that are often unexpected and always enlightening.

And that is why we looked for Thomas and Elizabeth in subsequent records. We have not found them in 1861, but in 1871, we were in for quite a surprise when we read what was written for Thomas's occupation.



UK RG10 – 1871 St John Westminster, London, district 18, page 31.

"Professional Cricketer!?" A couple of clicks later and we were looking at his career stats, courtesy of the Middlesex Cricket Club.[ix] No pictures unfortunately, but he played professional cricket in the "first-class" league for Middlesex between 1864 and 1873. He was also an occasional umpire during this period, and for five years beyond. According to his ESPN *cricinfo* profile, "Thomas Mantle was a lower-order batsman – who occasionally opened – and a medium-pace bowler who played for Middlesex as a professional. He twice turned out for Players against Gentlemen and also played on occasion for the professional United South of England XI."[x] In a fun twist, he appears to have played his last game at the Kennington Oval (pictured below) in Lambeth, Surrey, which is a familiar landmark for our Collins-Oster-Lee-Carter branch.

So the mystery man, "Huddy Mantle" was no man at all, just Elizabeth Huddy Rooke's married name! Thomas Allen Mantle took us by surprise in more than name only – professional sports in 1860s London certainly came out of left field, so to speak. And no, none of their descendants were named "Mickey." We checked.

Thomas and Elizabeth had some hard times when it came to their family. Of the ten births registered by Thomas and Elizabeth in Westminster, five of them died in infancy, and few appear to have outlived Thomas Mantle, who died in 1884 at the age of only 44.

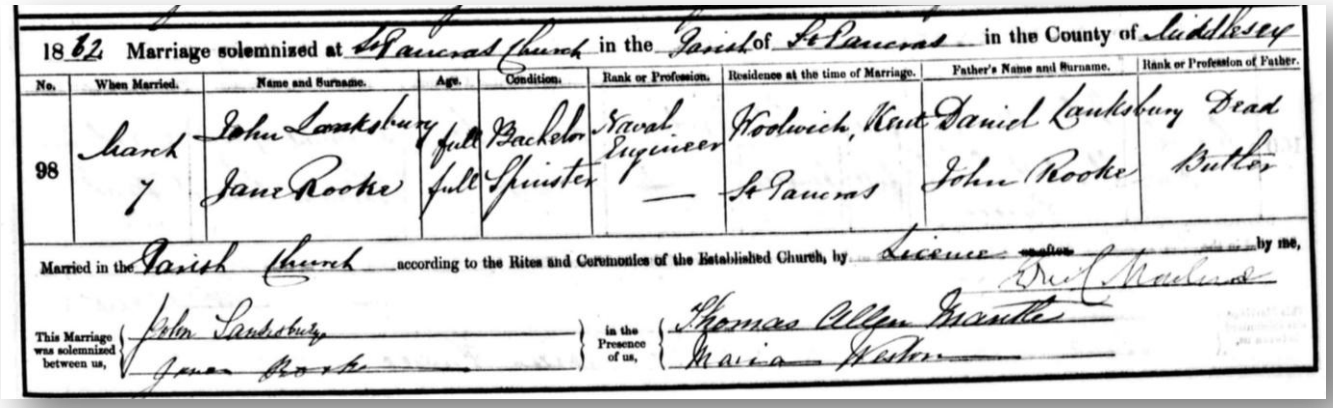
One of their children however, Frederick Allen Mantle was a 17-year-old engineer's assistant in 1891, living with his mother and sister. The connections continue!

The Sailor's John

On March 7, 1862 Elizabeth's sister Jane (Jane Austen *wishes* she could write this stuff) married a man whose name has caused more intrigue and puzzlement than any other in our tree. Our own part of the mystery was simple at first: Where the heck did James Rooke (our line) get the name John Lanksbury Rooke for his second son? We searched in vain for Lanksbury ancestors. It is so obviously connected with someone, or someplace, but who? Or what?

It gets worse. The internet is littered with confused trees and contradictory queries about a man named John Lanksbury. A few days ago, after a series of half-hearted attempts for years, we finally cracked it. There isn't a man named John Lanksbury. There are *two*. First cousins, born six months apart in the same town, who both married women named Jane. What a mess! The breakthrough came with the marriage registration below. John Lanksbury, Bachelor (*not* married with kids), Naval Engineer (*not* blacksmith), son of Daniel (*not* John),

married our Jane Rooke (*not* Jane Morshead), daughter of John Rooke, the butler. Look at the first witness. Dare ya.



1862 Marriage solemnized at St Pancras Church in the Parish of St Pancras in the County of Middlesex

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
98	March 7	John Lanksbury	full	Bachelor	Naval Engineer	Woolwich, Kent	Daniel Lanksbury	Dead
		Jane Rooke	full	Spinster	—	St Pancras	John Rooke	Butler

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Licence ~~after~~ by me, [illegible]

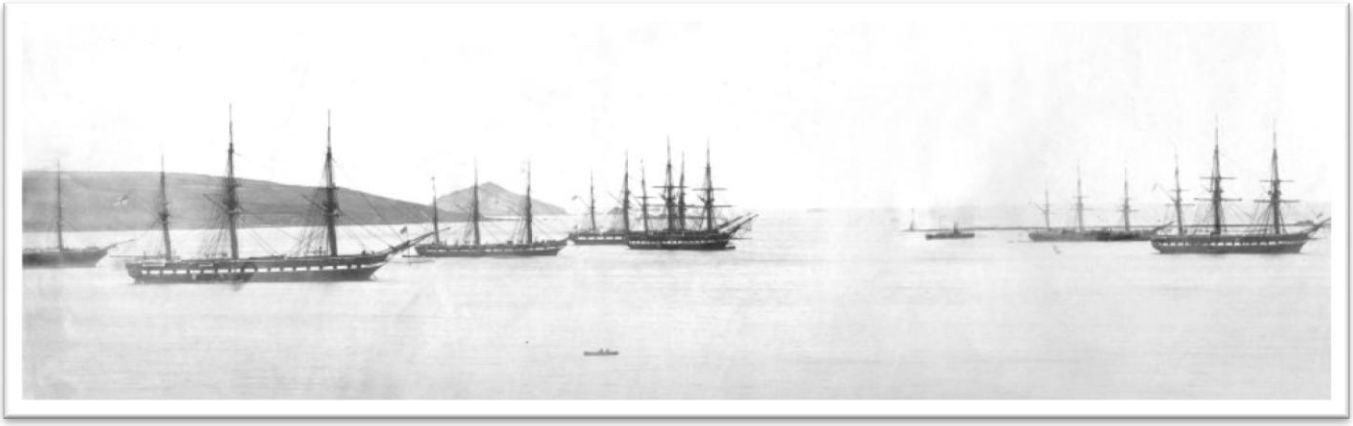
This Marriage was solemnized between us, John Lanksbury, Jane Rooke — in the Presence of us, Thomas Allen Brandt, Maria Weston

London, England, Marriages and Banns, St Pancras Parish Chapel register of marriages, Camden, London, page 45.

Now look at the second witness. That's Maria Weston, uncle David Rooke's wife's niece again! Ah, sweet logic. One marriage ties about six knots! And just to put the spiteful cherry on top (revenge for all those sloppy, poorly documented and woefully mistaken trees that misled us for so long), we clearly got the best John. :P

Our John Lanksbury was enumerated in 1861 on board the HMS Orion which was serving in the Mediterranean at Corfu until the fall of that year. At that time he was an assistant engineer, second class. Engineers were responsible for maintaining all of a ship's mechanical systems (in those days ships already had steam-powered backup systems, although they were used only when becalmed), and their training and education requirements were extensive. We don't have access to his entire service record, but it is likely that he spent extended periods away from his wife. He and Jane never had children.

The pinnacle of John's naval career seems to have come in 1869, when he was a fully-fledged engineer (listed first after the Chief Engineer) on the HMS Liverpool, the flagship of the "Special Flying Squadron" which circumnavigated the globe between June 1869 and November 1870. The journey of 53,562.3 nautical miles took 403 days at sea, with 103 total days in harbours in Africa, Australia, Japan, Vancouver's Island (sic), and South America. A fantastically detailed account of the trip as documented by midshipman Marcus McCausland is available on the internet.[xi] John's name is not mentioned specifically in the diary, but he is listed among the crew (as is a son of Charles Dickens, whose famous father died in England during the voyage). The photograph below was taken of the squadron off Plymouth Sound before its departure.



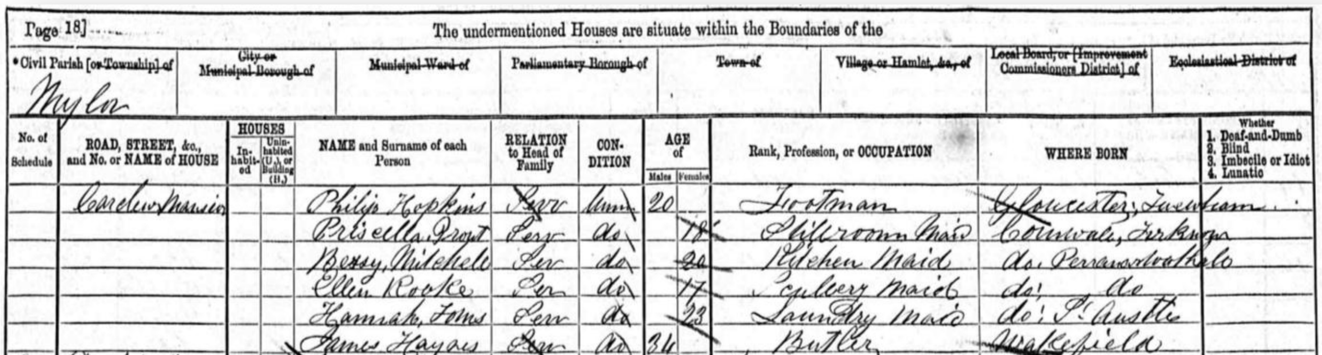
Jane was alone (again) for the 1881 census, but in 1891 John was home for good, listed as a "Fleet Engineer, R. Navy, Retired" and living with Jane at "Shanghai Villa" in Perranarworthal. There are no other census or web references to this place, so it may have been specifically their home (John did get around, after all). He died there in 1900,[xii] and Jane in 1906.[xiii] And just so we're clear: The next over-eager sailor who asks about their descendants walks the plank! (Or gets exiled to a mine in Redruth, with the *other* John Lanksbury.)

Speaking of unexpected trips, we have one more Rooke daughter to marry off, but Ellen Richards Rooke seems to have vanished. Hang on, has anyone seen Wickham? How about Buckingham? Oh my poor nerves. Read on!

The Innkeeper's Levi

We had trouble finding any trace of Ellen Richards Rooke. She was born after the 1851 census[xiv] (the only one that shows all the other children of John and Grace together). She's not home in the 1861 census, although she was only 8 at the time (in fact, we can't find her anywhere in England, so her name was probably badly muddled). It's surprisingly rare to be missed entirely in a census, but that's a possibility too. We found no deaths that would explain her absence. No marriage records later either, although we still had a mystery guy named Buckingham to account for. When or where was still anyone's guess.

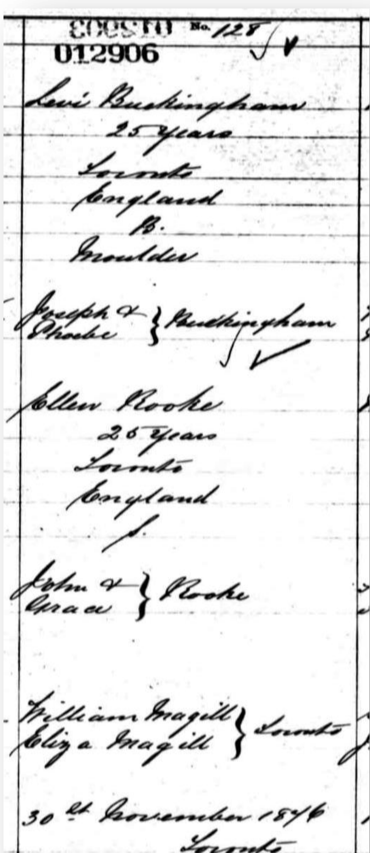
We think we found her in the 1871 census, working (where else) at Carclew as a scullery maid. It's hard to be sure with single individuals, but her age and birthplace are correct, and it makes some sense given her father's connection to the house. She drops out of sight in England again after that.


Page 18] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish [or Township] of Mylor

No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES In-habited	HOUSES Uninhabited (U.) or Building (B.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CONDITION	AGE of Males	AGE of Females	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether 1. Deaf-and-Dumb 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic
	Carclew Mansion			Philip Hopkins	Serv	Unm	20		Footman	Gloucester, [illegible]	
				Priscilla Prout	Serv	do		18	Stillroom Maid	Cornwall, [illegible]	
				Bessy Mitchell	Serv	do		20	Kitchen Maid	do. Perranarworthal	
				Ellen Rooke	Serv	do		17	Scullery maid	do. do	
				Hannah Toms	Serv	do		23	Laundry maid	do. St. Austle	
				James Hayes	Serv	do	34		Butler	Wakefield	

UK RG10 – 1871 Mylor, Cornwall, district 5, page 18.


012906 No. 128

Levi Buckingham
25 years
Toronto
England
B.
Moulder
Joseph & Phoebe } Buckingham
Ellen Rooke
26 years
Toronto
England
S.
John & Grace } Rooke
William Magill
Eliza Magill } Toronto
30th November 1876
Toronto

The breakthrough came thanks to a truly bizarre coincidence. An even more distant cousin in the Rooke line from Australia (more later) asked for some help finding a branch of hers that she thought might be in Canada. In the very same set of search results, we happened to notice the name "Buckingham." It turns out that we lost Ellen in England because she was getting married in – get this – Toronto!

As shown in their marriage registration (left), they were married in Toronto on November 30, 1876. Levi and Ellen Buckingham soon moved to Hamilton, Ontario where Levi was identified as a "moulder" in 1881, then a "Hotel keeper" in 1891 and 1901. This is very interesting because it was just a few years earlier (1871) that James and Jemima (Ellen's older brother, our ancestor) arrived in Canada and settled initially in the same area. Three of James's kids were born in Hamilton before they moved west through Iowa in the late '70s, on their way to Manitoba in 1881. Cousins of Jemima's appear to have settled in Hamilton too, although everyone seems to have arrived at different times (one of the Pinch cousins in particular, Jonathan Stevenson Pinch was born "on the sea" en route to Australia in 1837, but when his mother died there in 1840 he returned to England with his father, then set out with his brother to Canada in the 1850s. But I guess that's another story ☺).

Ellen never met her grandfather, James Rooke, maltster. But she certainly would have known her uncle James (John's older brother), who operated an inn called the "George and Dragon" in St. Clement, Cornwall. Also her uncle Alexander Huddy Rooke, who was a maltster like his father before him, and whose children emigrated to Australia and carried on the tradition there. With all that malt in the blood, maybe it was Ellen who got Levi Buckingham out of "moulding" and into hotel keeping.

Sadly Levi and Ellen, like her sister Elizabeth and Thomas Mantle, faced one tragedy after another with their family. Only three of their ten children appear to have lived long enough to marry (and one of those, Percy William Buckingham, died when he was just 28). Most of the other Buckingham siblings died before they were

a year old (although only one was stillborn). It's hard to imagine going through that, every year or two for almost two decades.

Levi and Ellen died relatively young themselves, within a few months of each other in 1906, both in their early 50s. They appear to have spent their entire married lives in the city of Hamilton.

The Carpenter's Philips (who should be shot)[xv]

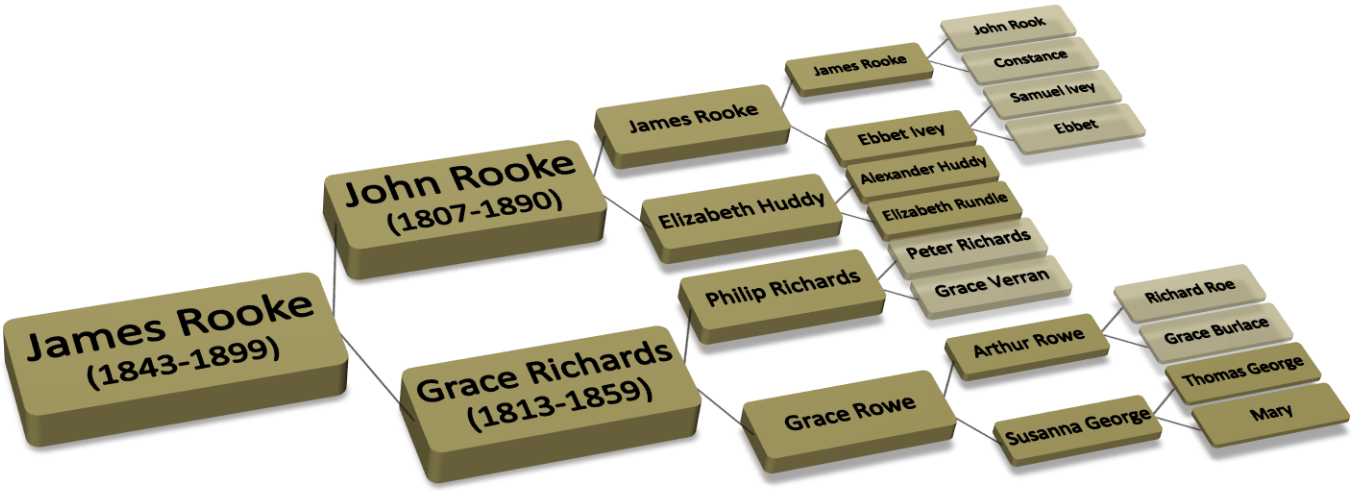
John Philip Rooke, named for his grandfather Philip Richards (a farmer) was a gardener in his youth like his older brother James (our line). Later, he is variously documented as a carpenter, and pattern/patten maker which according to 19th century job descriptions was a woodworker specializing in making strap-on wooden soles with an iron ring designed to keep shoes out of the "mud" (and other unpleasant stuff left on the road by their primary means of transportation).

John Philip appears to have been the home body of the five grown children of John and Grace. He married relatively late (for that time) at age 33 to Elizabeth Jory,[xvi] and although they spent some time in a town called Bissoe (just north of Perranarworthal) after their marriage, they appear to have lived most of the rest of their lives in Perranarworthal. His step mother Elizabeth (Bennett) Rooke was next door in 1891, and they all humoured him by stepping out in those ridiculous clod-hoppers.[xvii]

By 1901, John Philip was already retired, perhaps thanks to convenient inheritances, or persistent mud and productive horses. He and Elizabeth Jory had one child, Clara Elizabeth Rooke, who was only 16 at that time. She never married, and when she died in 1962, she left a third of her estate to the children of James and Jemima Rooke in Canada. When the law clerks first contacted the family, news of the inheritance caused quite a stir, but after all was said and done, Kelly Williamson received a 1/28th share (of the third), which amounted to a little over £30. The other thirds went to cousins who were already long-lost in 1962, although we recognize their names now: The children of Ellen Buckingham, and the lone surviving grandchild of Elizabeth Huddy Mantle.

The Gardener's Roots

We've known for several years that James and Jemima Rooke came to Canada from Cornwall, but only the more recent untangling of the spouses and families of his parents and siblings have allowed us to look a little deeper. Here's what we know now about the Rooke roots in Cornwall (lighter is more speculative):

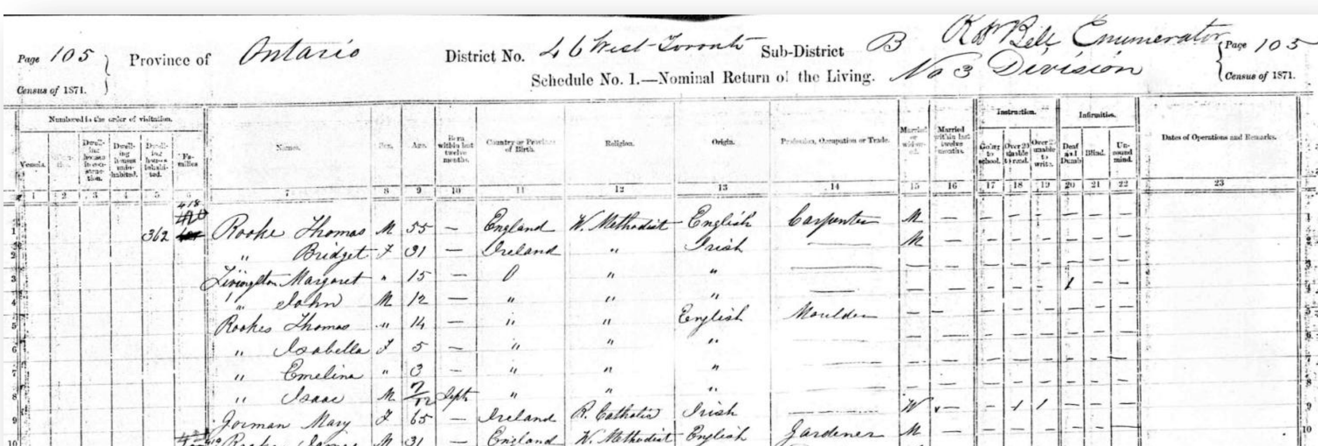


We can also turn the tree the other way and look at the descendants of James Rooke and Elizabeth Huddy (John the butler's parents). The interconnected names are amazing.

James Rooke m. Elizabeth Huddy on February 16, 1804. They had six children:

1. James Rooke (1805-1872)
   m. Charlotte Holbrook
2. **John Rooke** (1807-1890)
   m. **Grace Richards** on February 19, 1837, then Elizabeth Bennett in 1862.
   - 2.1. Elizabeth Huddy Rooke (1839-1926)
     m. Thomas Allen Mantle
     John Rooke Mantle, Ellen Rooke Mantle, Thomas J. Mantle, Elizabeth Sarah Mantle, Charles Allen Mantle, Elizabeth Theresa Mantle, Sydney Sleaford Mantle, William Richards Mantle, Frederick Allen Mantle, Alice Edith M. Mantle
   - 2.2. Jane Rooke (1840-1906)
     m. John Lanksbury
     (no children)
   - 2.3. **James Rooke** (1842-1899)
     m. **Jemima Pinch** on February 20, 1864
     James Rooke, John Lanksbury Rooke, **Emily Rooke**, Edith Rooke, Jemima Rooke, Sidney Rooke, Arthur Rooke, Ethel Rooke, Clara Rooke, Eveline Jane Rooke
   - 2.4. Baby boy Rooke (1843-1843)
   - 2.5. John Philip Rooke (1847-1920)
     m. Elizabeth Jory
     Clara Elizabeth Rooke
   - 2.6. Ellen Richards Rooke (1853-1906)
     m. Levi Buckingham
     Arthur Charles Buckingham, John Frederick Buckingham, George Frederick Buckingham, Percy William Buckingham, Alfred Joseph Buckingham, Ellen Grace Buckingham, Sydney Buckingham, Baby Buckingham, Albert Levi Buckingham
3. David Rooke (1811-1888)
   m. Martha Marie Weston
4. Alexander Huddy Rooke (1814-1869)
   m. Frances Stephens
   Thomas Stephens Rooke, Mary Stephens Rooke, Elizabeth Rooke, Sarah Rooke, James Rooke, Eliza Ann Rooke, Gertrude Rooke, David Rooke, Matilda Rooke, Fanny Rooke
5. Thomas Rooke (1816- ?)
   m. Bridget Livingston-Carroll (her second marriage, possibly his too)
   Isabella Rooke, Emeline Rooke, Isaac Rooke
6. Elizabeth Rooke (1819-1874)
   m. William Job Huddy
   George Rooke Huddy, William Huddy, Annette Elizabeth Huddy, James Huddy

Emily Rooke in bold above is Grandpa Kelly's mother. When her family moved to Canada, her father arrived first. We first discovered him alone in the 1871 census of Canada, but because we were using an index that listed only the heads of families, we really couldn't be sure it was our James. When we finally obtained the original image, we were surprised to discover that he was living with another Rooke family – Thomas and Bridget – a couple who had a very big gap in ages and a very strange list of kids.


Page 105 Census of 1871. Province of Ontario District No. 46 West-Toronto Sub-District B R. Bell Enumerator
Schedule No. 1.—Nominal Return of the Living. No 3 Division

Families	Names	Sex	Age	Born within last twelve months	Country or Province of Birth	Religion	Origin	Profession, Occupation or Trade	Married or widowed
362	Rooke Thomas	M	55	–	England	W. Methodist	English	Carpenter	M
	" Bridget	F	31	–	Ireland	"	Irish		M
	Livingston Margaret	"	15	–	"	"	"		
	" John	M	12	–	"	"	"		
	Rookes Thomas	"	14	–	"	"	English	Moulder	
	" Isabella	F	5	–	"	"	"		
	" Emeline	"	3	–	"	"	"		
	" Isaac	M	7/12	Sept	"	"	"		
	Gorman Mary	F	65	–	Ireland	R. Catholic	Irish		W
	Rooke James	M	31	–	England	W. Methodist	English	Gardener	M

1871 Census of Canada: St. Patrick's Ward, Toronto West, Ontario, page 119.

The children of Thomas and Bridget took a little puzzling, but the discovery of their marriage record resolved

it.[xviii] Bridget's surname on the record is Livingston, but her parents were Michael and Margaret *Carroll*. Bridget must have had two children (Margaret and John in the census image) with a first husband before marrying Thomas Rooke. Given the ages of the kids, it looks like Thomas was previously married also, and the 14-year-old Thomas "Rookes" in the census was a son from *his* first marriage. We have no details yet. However, the marriage of Thomas and Bridget also included the names of Thomas's parents: James and Elizabeth! Based on that, his age, and the fact that our James Rooke is staying with them, it's pretty clear that Thomas Rooke is James's uncle (#5 in the descendant chart above). Thomas had been a nagging blank in our tree, and once again it was because we were looking in the wrong country.

We have not found any passenger records that include Thomas Rooke, or James and Jemima, but we can narrow the search pretty well now for the latter couple. In order to be included in the 1871 census, James had to have arrived before April 2. In order to be counted in England in the same year, Jemima and the kids could not have left until *after* the same date (both UK and Canadian census dates were the same). They had their last English-born child (Jemima) on November 11, 1870, so James might have travelled in the summer of '70 or after the baby was born in early '71. They had their first Canadian child (Sidney) on October 19, 1872 in Hamilton Ontario, so it is most likely that Jemima and the kids travelled in the summer of '71. The rest is history.

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Meanwhile back in Perranarworthal, James's younger sister Ellen was making plans to come to Canada herself. James's uncle Alexander Huddy Rooke (the maltster) had just passed away, and several of Alexander's children were making their way to Australia. James's brother-in-law John Lanksbury was just home from his round-the-world trip with the Special Flying Squadron, no doubt inspiring his family with tales of the journey (like the time that 150 men deserted because they had so much fun partying in Melbourne, or about Victoria BC, "…a dirty tumbledown looking place a great portion of the inhabitants being Yankee. All they think about is the almighty dollar then the Hudson Bay Company"). James's sister Elizabeth was busy watching Middlesex home games with the other cricketers' wives at the Kennington Oval south of London. With the exception of James's younger brother John Philip (who was still living with his parents and…stepping carefully), the family was on the move in ways never before possible, while James's father John was retiring from Carclew with his new wife Elizabeth Bennett.

That house, now in ruins, is one of England's "lost country houses." It was famous in Cornwall for its gardens. In particular, a stupendous rhododendron (planted from seeds sent to Carclew by Sir Joseph Hooker on his Himalayan expedition in about 1850) grew to a height of over 30 feet and was renowned locally and beyond. The variety is now named for Sir Charles Lemon. It seems possible that James Rooke was inspired by that very garden, and he may have even learned his trade there (if so, he flunked "pruning the rhododendron").

Like the plant, John and Grace Rooke's descendants may have spread far and wide, but their roots are in Cornwall. The butler from Perranarworthal would be proud indeed. RW, August 2011

Detail of the house in the painting "Carclew, Cornwall" by Algernon Newton, commissioned by the owners before it was destroyed by fire in 1934.

References and End Notes

We've come a long way from knowing Emily Rooke's parents as "Grandma and Grandpa Rooke," and learned a little history and a lot of geography during the voyage. Being able to find just the right details to turn a stack of squiggly census entries into a really fun story is such a pleasure, and it feels good to know that we've improved and preserved our family's memory in another small way.

Errors are not that uncommon however, and we're always learning more. While we like to be pretty sure about our facts before we assemble a story like this, there are always some guesses. The references below are far from exhaustive, but we hope will make the trail of crumbs a little easier to follow in the future.

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[i] The census references shown with each image are based on the organization of records used at Ancestry.com. Using the information in the reference, you can access the full page there, by selecting the County, Parish, and sub-district, then navigating to the given page. However, original census films use a numerical catalogue that requires the use of a finding aid to map place names to parish and/or district numbers. All that cryptic stuff really doesn't add much to the reference, so we've skipped it. Even some page numbers may vary (those given are technically "image numbers" of whatever was scanned by Ancestry).

[ii] GRO reference: Marriages, 2Q 1862: Rooke John, Falmouth, volume 5c, page 327. The General Register Office (GRO) in England has an on-line certificate ordering service. For about £10, you can order a paper copy of a birth, marriage, or death certificate (if you have the full index reference). This one confirms the identity of John's father, James Rooke, maltster.

[iii] All of the children were born after civil registration started, which is great (that means that birth certificates can be ordered, which provide specific information about parents' names and residence). However the best entry we've found for our James Rooke is for a "Baby" Rooke (male). This is something we normally associate with stillbirths, but we've ordered the record and hope to learn something anyway.

[iv] GRO reference: Deaths, 2Q 1859, Rooke Grace, Falmouth, volume 5c, page 132. Death records do not generally include information about next of kin, so we have not bothered to obtain the original, although it would provide the exact date.

[v] We've reported the omission more than once. They seem to assume user error, instead of actually checking, although the last conversation we had was more hopeful.

[vi] Google "FreeCEN" and search for Grace Rooke in 1851, Cornwall.

[vii] GRO reference: Marriages, 4Q 1841, Richards Mary, Falmouth, volume 9, page 123. Also see the Cornwall OPC: http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/more-info/?t=marriages&id=506714. Cool point: John Rooke witnessed the marriages of every Richards sibling (Mary, William, Charlotte, and John.)

[viii] GRO reference: Deaths, 1Q 1845, Richards Philip, Falmouth, volume 9, page 66.

[ix] Middlesex County Cricket Club archives, Players, TA Mantle, http://cricketarchive.com/Middlesex/Players/31/31205/31205.html.

[x] ESPN cricinfo: http://www.espncricinfo.com/england/content/player/17315.html. The author of the player bio is Martin Williamson, no relation but those confusing coincidences drive us nuts.

[xi] http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/Flying_Squadron/Cover_Page.html. The site is a little strange to navigate – it seems to have three separate parts that lack links between them, but are connected and relevant to the story. The actual reference to John Lanksbury's name can be found in the disjointed second part of the site, concerning the HMS Liverpool: http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/Flying_Squadron/HMS_Liverpool.html.

[xii] GRO reference: Deaths, 4Q 1900, Lanksbury John, Falmouth, volume 5c, page 93.

[xiii] Ancestry.com. England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1861-1941 [database on-line]. Jane Lanksbury, probate date 15 Jan 1907, death date 22 Dec 1906, registry Bodmin, Cornwall.

[xiv] "At Perranwharf, on the 15th instant, the wife of Mr. John ROOKE, of the Anchor and Hope Inn, a daughter." *West of Briton* newspaper, December 23, 1853.

[xv] Just a little joke at the expense of the annoyingly successful creator of the "Phillips head" screw, the worst fastener ever invented. Dad says so (and a few billion dropped, stripped, and wasted screws don't lie). Tell a friend. Save the planet.

[xvi] GRO reference: Marriages, 4Q 1880, Rooke John Philip, Falmouth, volume 5c, page 268.

[xvii] Wonder if he ever tried using springs? I feel a Christmassy kind of inspiration comin' on….

[xviii] County Marriage Registers for York (Toronto), Canada West (Ontario). Marriage date June 6, 1866. Microfilm rolls 1030065 and 1030066.